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University of Miami student selected for internship with Minerals Management Service

Viviana Gonzalez, a Miami native and University of Miami Senior, has been selected for an internship with the United States Department of the Interior (DOI). The 22-year-old Systems Analysis major is participating in the nationwide "Diversity Internship Program" sponsored by DOI and several educational organizations.

Viviana is interning for the Minerals Management Service (MMS), a division of the Department of the Interior that manages the nation's oil, natural gas and other mineral resources in offshore federal waters. Viviana is interning in the Office of Program Services as an Automated Data Processing assistant. Under the guidance of her mentors, Debra Wolcott and Wendy Ward, Viviana is responsible for working on the regional MMS website as well as developing a website for the internship program.

"We're trying to fix the website to make it more accessible for the vision and hearing impaired," Viviana says, "I'm also working with the kids' webpage to make it easy and fun for children to learn about MMS." The Program Services office also helps with any computer-related problems within the entire MMS office. Viviana hopes that her experience with MMS this summer will add to her resume, which is already quite impressive.

This is Viviana's second internship through the sponsor organization, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' (HACU) National Internship Program (HNIP), which places Hispanic students, as well as students of other minorities, in internship positions with the federal government. Last summer, Viviana interned with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the William J. Hughes Technical Center. Viviana's main responsibility was creating simulation systems using a new program called Extend. Upon graduation, Viviana is hoping to attend either the University of Florida or the University of Central Florida to obtain a degree in Industrial Engineering with a focus in Management. Her ultimate goal is to work for Lockheed Martin, a company in Orlando, Florida that works with missiles.

The internship also gives Viviana the opportunity to live in Southern California for the summer and visit the many tourist attractions within the state. Viviana says she would "like to visit as many cities as I can and experience life in California, it's such a great opportunity professionally and personally."

In Miami, Viviana is active on her campus as well as in her community. For two years she has been a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, a national, coed business fraternity. She is a member of the dance group "Dancing Ibis" where she is a Salsa instructor and worked for the Student Wellness Center where she served as a membership supervisor.

Viviana also gained professional experience working at the law firm of Zorilla & Garcia-Oliver as an administrative assistant. Her volunteer experience is also quite exhaustive. Viviana has volunteered with “Hurricanes Help the Hometown” as well as “Kids N’ Culture.” Viviana’s professional, academic, and volunteer experiences have all helped to make her a very well rounded and successful student.